

Woody Cover Control – Fencelines/Woody Draws

Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University Outreach and Extension – The School of Natural Resources

WOODY COVER CONTROL ALONG FENCELINES AND WOODY DRAWS WILL IMPROVE SMALL GAME HABITAT

PURPOSE:

Most fencelines and woody draws in Missouri do not provide adequate cover for small game. The trees have become too large and have shaded out the weeds and small shrubs that quail and rabbits depend on. Additionally, most of these woody draws and fencelines have been invaded by sod-forming grasses like fescue and brome. Woody cover control in these areas will provide instant escape cover for small game and promote annual weed and shrub growth within one year.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- ❑ Kill any sod-forming grasses with appropriate herbicide prior to woody cover control.
- ❑ Use only chainsaws or tree shearers – no bulldozers. Leave trees where they fall or “windrow” them along the fence or woody draw.
- ❑ Do small sections at a time. Cut 50’ long sections spaced out every 200-300 feet. Continue this process each year until the entire fenceline or woody draw has been treated.
- ❑ Leave native shrubs like dogwood or plum and an occasional mast producing species like oak or walnut.
- ❑ Treat stumps of undesirable trees with an appropriate herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. Where shrubs do not exist in the understory, consider leaving some stumps untreated. Do not treat hedge tree stumps when renovating an old hedgerow.



BEFORE - NO COVER AT GROUND LEVEL



AFTER - INSTANT ESCAPE COVER

MAINTENANCE:

- ☐ Exclude livestock from treated areas.
- ☐ Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide natural cover source for quail and other wildlife.

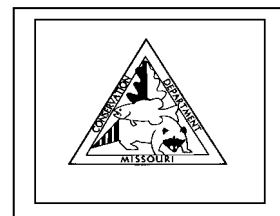
Consult with NRCS or MDC wildlife biologists and private land conservationists, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

COMMENTS

Landowner: _____ Farm No. _____ Tract No. _____

Field No. _____

CONTACT:



DATE:



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